

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 3, 17 and 18 as shown below, in which deleted terms are shown with strikethrough and added terms are shown with underscoring.

1. (Currently Amended) An air bag in a folded state housed in an instrument panel, the air bag inflating by an inflator when a vehicle is crashed, the air bag comprising:  
an opening portion into which a gas generated by the inflator flows;  
a gas flow path portion extending continuously from the opening portion; and  
an occupant restraint portion extending continuously from the gas flow path portion, wherein the gas flows from the opening portion to the occupant restraint portion through the gas flow path portion, and  
wherein the gas flow path portion has at least one penetrating portion extending therethrough, and said at least one penetrating portion is located only in the gas flow path portion.

2. (Previously amended) The air bag according to claim 1, wherein the penetrating portion divides said gas flow path portion into two or more flow paths for flowing the gas from the opening portion to the occupant restraint portion through the gas flow path portion.

3. (Currently amended) An air bag in a folded state housed in an ~~instrumental~~ panel, the air bag inflating by an inflator when a vehicle is crashed, the air bag comprising:  
an opening portion into which a gas generated by the inflator flows;  
a gas flow path portion extending continuously from the opening portion; and  
an occupant restraint portion, wherein  
the gas flows from the opening portion to the occupant restraint portion through the gas flow path portion, and  
at least one joint portion is located within the air bag, the joint portion dividing the gas flow path portion into two or more paths for flowing the gas from the opening portion to the occupant restraint portion through the gas flow path portion, and said at least one joint portion is

located only in the gas flow path portion.

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Previously amended) The air bag according to claim 3, wherein the joint portion is formed by partially sewing parts of the gas flow path portion together.

6. (Original) The air bag according to claim 1, including a plurality of said penetrating portions.

7. (Original) The air bag according to claim 1, wherein said penetrating portion reduces an opening area of said gas flow path portion.

8. (Original) The air bag according to claim 6, wherein said penetrating portions reduce an opening area of said gas flow path portion.

9. (Original) The air bag according to claim 6, wherein the penetrating portions divide said gas flow path portion into multiple flow paths for flowing the gas from the opening portion to the occupant restraint portion through the gas flow path portion.

10, 11. (Cancelled)

12. (Original) The air bag according to claim 3, including a plurality of said joint portions.

13. (Original) The air bag according to claim 3, wherein said joint portion reduces an opening area of said gas flow path portion.

14. (Original) The air bag according to claim 12, wherein said joint portions reduce an

opening area of said gas flow path portion.

15. (Original) The air bag according to claim 12, wherein the joint portions divide said gas flow path portion into multiple flow paths for flowing the gas from the opening portion to the occupant restraint portion through the gas flow path portion.

C 16. (Previously added) The air bag according to claim 1, wherein the penetrating portion is sealed in a manner such that fluid communication between the inside of said air bag and ambient air outside the bag via the penetrating portion is substantially prevented.

17. (Currently amended) An air bag in a folded state housed in an instrumental panel, the air bag inflatable by an inflator when a vehicle is crashed, the air bag comprising:  
an opening portion into which a gas generated by the inflator flows;  
a gas flow path portion attached to the opening portion; and  
an occupant restraint portion attached to the gas flow path portion,  
wherein the gas flows from the opening portion to the occupant restraint portion through the gas flow path portion, and  
wherein the air bag has at least one penetrating portion extending therethrough, said penetrating portion being sealed in a manner such that fluid communication between the inside of said air bag and ambient air outside the bag via the penetrating portion is substantially prevented, and said at least one penetrating portion is located only in the gas flow path portion.

18. (Currently amended) The air bag according to claim ~~18~~ 17, wherein the penetrating portion extends through said gas flow path portion of said air bag and restricts the volume of ~~air~~ gas that can flow therethrough.

19. (Previously added) The air bag according to claim 3, wherein the joint portion reduces a volume of said air bag.

20. (Previously added) The air bag according to claim 3, wherein the joint portion

C connects opposing sections of the gas flow portion of said air bag, whereby the area opening of the gas flow path portion is reduced.

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